

Barun ICT Global News

Global Student Researcher & Reporter

- 01** Cyber Security Risks of Working from Home
Qiyang Emily Wu
- 02** VR Conferences Stepping into Action
Hayoung Noh
- 03** Peru and 5G Technology
Yudith Helen
- 04** ICT, Diplomacy, and Education in the Digital Divide
Paloma Valentina Carrillo-Gallegos
- 05** How is the Philippines Handling Graduation Ceremonies?
Mae Tentes

2020 JUNE & JULY



Barun ICT Research Center

01

Cyber Security Risks of Working from Home

Global Student Reporter & Researcher

Qiyang Emily Wu 

China

Yonsei University Underwood International College

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the majority of people have turned into remote working as a means to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus. However, working from home may have placed individuals and businesses at a greater danger from cyber security risks. Without the actions to adopt security protection, no one is safe from potential cyberattacks.



The video conferencing company Zoom has recently been involved in a controversial debate as to whether the app is breaching sensitive information and users' privacy. On April 6th, Taiwan has become the first country to ban all official use of Zoom, quickly followed by Singapore, Australia, and other companies and institutions such as Google and NASA [1]. According to Bloomberg, Zoom has not only sent traffic through Chinese data but also increased the risk of 'Zoombombing', where uninvited internet trolls intrude in the video conference and create unwanted chaos [2].

A survey conducted by Yahoo Finance UK has also indicated that almost half of UK employees currently on remote working have been the victim of cybercrime, with 42% of people having received suspicious emails and 18% facing a security breach [3]. Moreover, cybercriminals have quickly adopted to the new trend and constructed different fraud related to the pandemic, including selling fake test kits to the medical agencies online and spreading fake news.

01 Cyber Security Risks of Working from Home

Although it is nearly impossible to completely eliminate the risk of cybersecurity, there are some methods that can be used to mitigate the chances of being exposed to unknown resources online. Setting a strong password, encrypting important data and recordings, monitoring the attendee list, and using a secured wi-fi can all effectively play the role of protection. More and more companies have urged their employees to take extra measures to protect their information, and some agencies have launched a free cybersecurity helpline and have made contracts with government to improve such issue.



Image from <https://www.darkside.enterprises/cyber-security-crisis/>

The coronavirus pandemic will eventually pass; however, the battle of cybersecurity is a long-time journey that needs to be handled with constant caution. Without an established infrastructure to protect users from cybercrime, remote working can never reach its most efficient outcome.

Sources

- [1] Vigliarolo, Brando (2020). Who has banned Zoom? Retrieved from <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/who-has-banned-zoom-google-nasa-and-more/>
- [2] Wu, Debby & Ellis, Samson (2020). Taiwan Bans Official Use of Zoom Over Cybersecurity Concerns. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-07/taiwan-bans-government-use-of-zoom-over-cybersecurity-concerns>
- [3] Canter, Lily (2020). Coronavirus: Half of remote workers 'victims of cybercrime'. Retrieved from <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/coronavirus-half-of-remote-workers-victims-of-cybercrime-144200532.html>

02

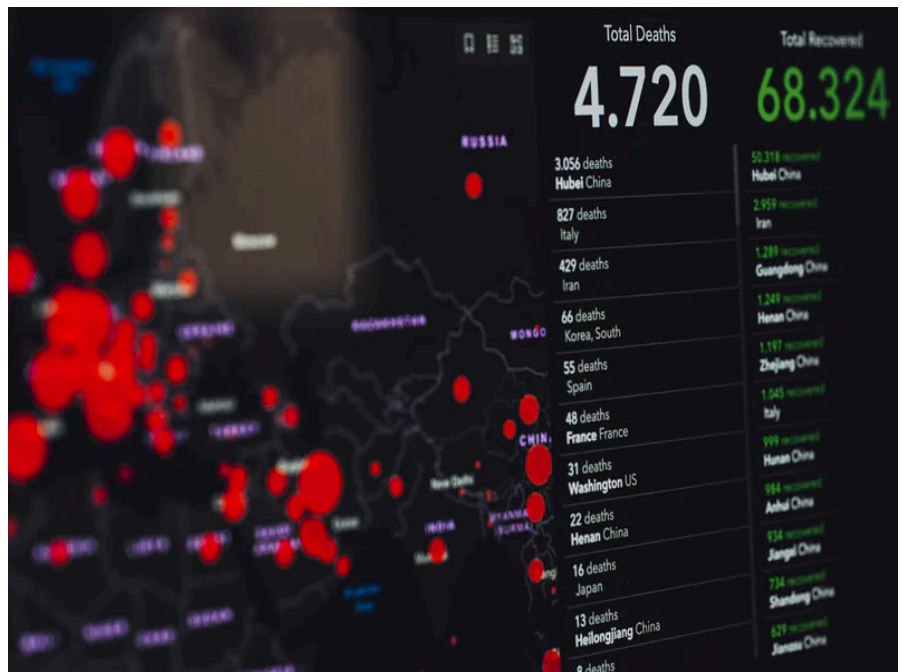
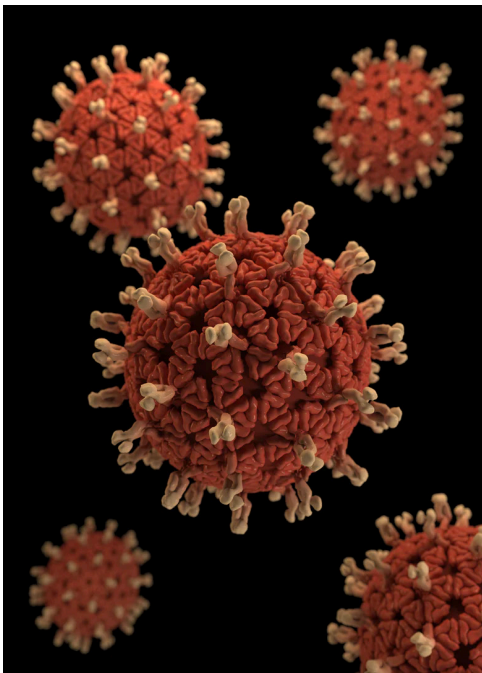
VR Conferences Stepping into Action

Global Student Reporter & Researcher

Hayoung Noh 

Korea

Yonsei University Global Leadership Division



Over the past months, due to the sudden COVID-19 outbreak, several festivals and annual conferences were unfortunately postponed or cancelled, disappointing potential participants. However, with Virtual Reality (VR) making its way into mainstream technology, several events are being held in the virtual world.

The first educators in VR Summit took place over a period of six days, with 170 speakers with 2000 participants engaging in this new format [1]. Online events are not bound by regular constraints such as geographic distance and the physical organization of speakers and the audience, while having easier control and saving unnecessary expenses.



Image from <https://www.cnet.com/news/zoom-but-in-vr-why-spatial-free-meeting-app-feels-like-a-leap-forward/>

It could be expected for the next few months for more information or technologically transferable-based events to take a similar approach with varying results. The main reason for physical conferences is to create a face-to-face contact with one another; on the other hand, VR could not replicate the exact feeling, which may cause less satisfaction ratings from the participants. However, taking into consideration the context of the current situation around the world, it is one of the most powerful methods that could be utilized, as all that is needed is a decent internet connection. More events could move their events to VR in the future if deemed successful enough to be continued, as it not only cuts cost, but also attracts more participants and individuals into the community through its accessibility.

Sources

[1] Charlie, F. (2020, March 11). VR Takes the Stage as Conferences Cancel Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/charliefink/2020/03/11/vr-takes-the-stage-as-conferences-cancel/#333575011dbe>

03

Peru and 5G Technology

Global Student Reporter & Researcher

Yudith Helen 

Peru

Yonsei University Industrial Engineering Department

In Peru, there are a large number of people who covet better access to the Internet and advanced technology in their daily lives. Ironically, however, they oppose to the installation of 5G antennas. One of the main reasons for such resistance is fear.

Today, the majority of telephone operators in Peru aim to implement 5G Internet and provide enhanced service to their clients. Developed countries like the US and South Korea have already conducted trials to check the performance of the new broadband connections. However, in Peru, ICT companies face a serious problem of receiving support from the public. The lack of public acceptance is the reason that the connectivity exploration and evaluation stage are being delayed. According to the newspaper GESTIÓN, such situation could delay the implementation of 5G Internet until 2025. As such, telephone and ICT companies are facing a great challenge to overcome.



Image from <https://www.dekra-product-safety.com/en/dekra-launches-advanced-5g-testing-and-certification-solutions>



In addition, Peru does not have the necessary antenna capacity throughout its territories. According to the Latin American Association of Telecommunications Companies (ASITET), more than 200,000 antennas are required in the country for the 5G technology to work. However, according to the latest report issued by OSIPTEL, there are only 20,630 antennas, which are insufficient for creating 5G.

According to data from the Association for the Promotion of National Infrastructure (AFIN) in 2018, it was recorded that one antenna in Peru serves approximately 3462 people, while in other countries such as Chile, one antenna serves 860 people. The comparison between two neighboring Latin American countries shows a big difference. The Peruvian government is evaluating the possibility of amending Law 29022, which empowers municipalities to give authorization for the installation of antennas. The municipalities today do not permit the installation because of the great opposition from the public. However, if the law is amended, they would not lose popularity or votes for the next elections.

From my point of view, if the Peruvian public does not accept the 5G technology, the implementation of 5G technology will take much longer than other countries, and result in negative consequences. Therefore, the government needs to raise awareness and initiate projects that could help the implementation of more antennas in the Peruvian territory.

Sources

[1] Gestion (2020). " Escasez de antenas retrasaría llegada de tecnología 5G al Perú, advierten." Gestión, Perú. Retrieved from <https://gestion.pe/tecnologia/escasez-de-antenas-retrasaria-llegada-de-tecnologia-5g-al-peru-advierten-noticia/>

04 ICT, Diplomacy, and Education in the Digital Divide

Global Student Reporter & Researcher

Paloma Valentina Carrillo-Gallegos 

Mexico

Yonsei University Underwood International College

There is no doubt that ICT has contributed to a more interconnected society on various levels; whether at the United Nations or in a classroom, we now have the ability to communicate with greater ease than ever before. The political stage is no exception. We have seen in the past few months how technology has allowed some institutions to keep running in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. But just how much of an effect has ICT had in general, and how can it progress even further in the oncoming future?



Image from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/europeandcentralasia/can-technology-help-mitigate-impact-covid-19-education-systems-europe-and>

ICT has helped the public to become more aware of the stance of their country and representatives; this is partly because some non-governmental organizations have become well-known for their research on these entities [1]. As a result, individuals have various resources from which they can draw the best-informed conclusions about policies and their subsequent potential results. Reputable platforms have in turn become essential in equipping readers with the facts that can encourage increased transparency in government.

In the United States, various levels of schools, from daycares to universities, had to close their campuses in March or required to switch into online learning in the middle of the semester. Fortunately, most classes and exams were able to continue via the wide-scale use of video calling platforms, pre-recorded lectures, and proctoring services.



However, these alternatives are not without their shortcomings. In order for these tools to be effectively utilized by all the people who need them, institutions must first make the assumption that internet is readily accessible. Exactly how available, then, are these platforms from home in the United States?

The Pew Research Center reported that 87% of adults considered the internet during the pandemic to be “important,” and more than half responded “essential” [2].

The “digital divide,” as defined by the OECD, is “the gap between individuals... [regarding] their opportunities to access... ICTs and to their use of the Internet...” [3]. It is an issue for people of all age groups: among students in high school or below in the United States, 29% had to complete assignments on their phones, and 21% could not submit most work because they did not have a computer. These two findings are separate from other issues of internet speed [2]. Thus, the digital divide can quickly transform into an educational divide. This is an important issue to consider as, the Advanced Placement (AP) exams, a determinant in high school students' college acceptance decisions, were also held online [4].

To sum up, it is now easier than ever to be informed on both local and global issues in real time. Likewise, educational resources appear to be infinite on search engines: academic journals, current events articles, and tutorial videos are just a few of the ways in which people can gain new skills and broaden their own perspectives. Nevertheless, knowledge both inside and outside of the classroom rely on the same fountain we call the “internet”. In order to truly be an instrument that represents everyone, it must be made accessible to everyone so as to promote learning and involvement in local, state, and international politics as well as in the fields of study which the next generation of students will one day lead and develop.

Sources

- [1] Westcott, N. (2008 July). Digital Diplomacy: The Impact of the Internet on International Relations [PDF file, p.9]. Retrieved June 07, 2020, from <https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/archive/downloads/publications/RR16.pdf>
- [2] Vogels, E., Perrin, A., Rainie, L., & Anderson, M. (2020, May 31). 53% of Americans Say the Internet Has Been Essential During the COVID-19 Outbreak. Retrieved June 07, 2020, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/04/30/53-of-americans-say-the-internet-has-been-essential-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>
- [3] OECD Statistics Directorate. (2002, August 5). Glossary of Statistical Terms: Digital Divide. Retrieved June 08, 2020, from <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719> (From Understanding the Political Divide, OECD, 2001, p.5)
- [4] CollegeBoard (n.d.). Taking AP Exams Online. Retrieved June 07, 2020, from <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/taking-ap-exams>

05 How Is The Philippines handling Graduation Ceremonies?

Global Student Reporter & Researcher

Mae Tentes 

Philippine

Yonsei University Global Leadership Division

The end of school in the Philippines was scheduled for April 13 to 17, but graduation ceremonies were postponed due to the enhanced community quarantine. The Education Department (DepEd) is considering a virtual graduation ceremony and follow the advice of the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH cautioned DepEd not to allow a face-to-face graduation ceremony in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In response, some schools and divisions suggested e-graduation as an alternative.

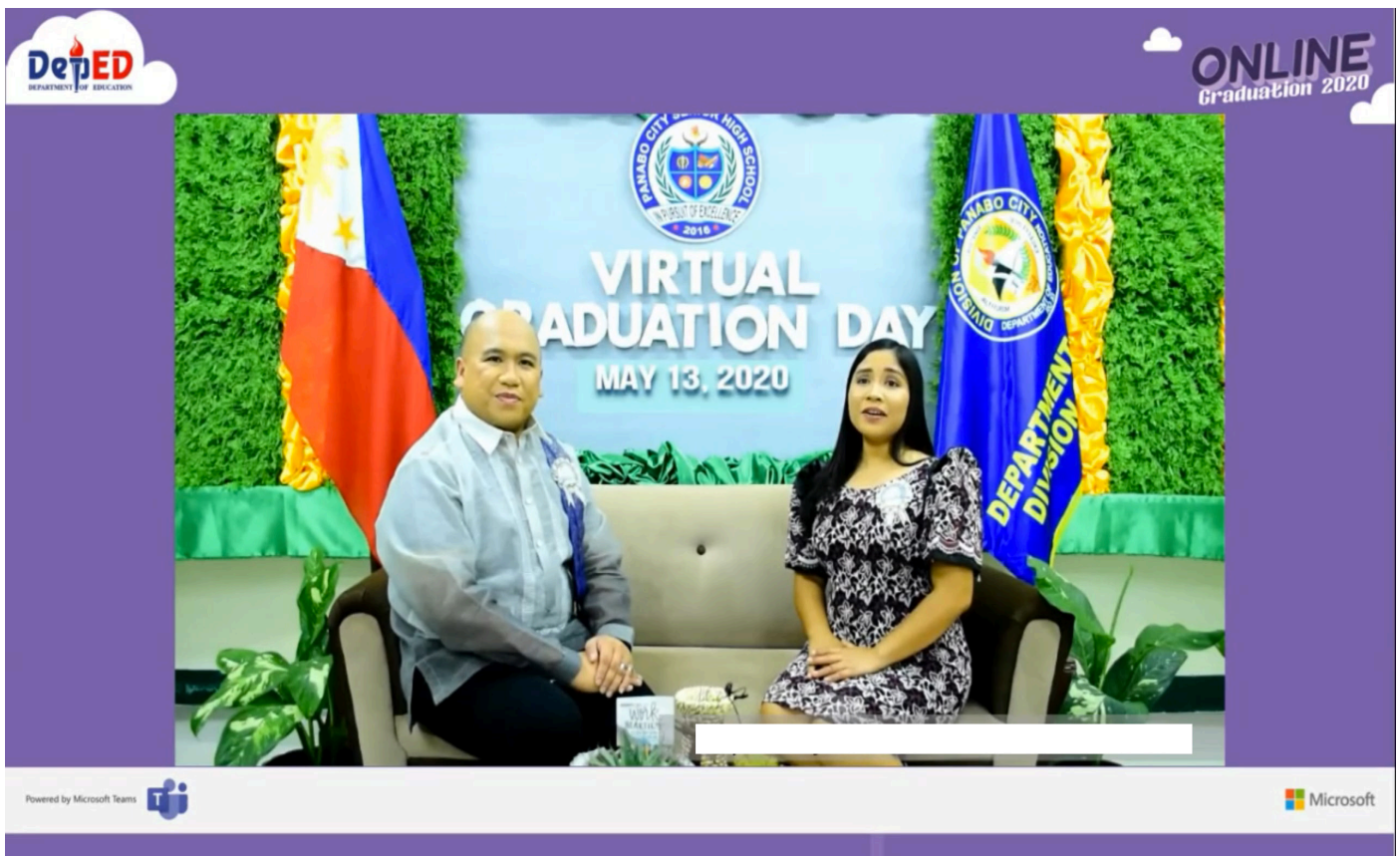


Image from <https://news.microsoft.com/en-ph/2020/05/27/the-philippine-department-of-education-launches-first-virtual-graduation-in-a-box-program-hello2020graduates/>

05 How is the Philippines Handling Graduation Ceremonies?

In April, DepEd and other schools needed to consider how to manage the process of virtual graduation. The suggested solutions were cyber-graduation and #Hello2020Graduates.

DepEd partnered with Microsoft and launched #Hello2020Graduates, a virtual 'graduation-in-a-box' solution powered by Microsoft 365. The program gave schools access to Office webapps, cloud service, and world-class security. Moreover, it allowed students' families in the Philippines and abroad to participate in the graduation ceremony.



Image from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/261711-in-photos-robots-represent-graduating-high-school-students-coronavirus>

Taguig City held its first graduation for the 179 graduates of Senator Renato "Compañero" Cayetano Memorial Science and Technology High School (SRCCMSTHS). The ceremony made use of toga-wearing robots that were made by the school's Taguig Robotics Team. The team developed four remote-controlled robots made from recycled materials.

As an international student graduating in August, I never imagined or expected that my graduation ceremony will be influenced by the pandemic. The world's interest in ICT has helped people solve numerous communication problems in the education field. Thanks to current technology, we can hold a graduation ceremony without face to face contact, which is still better than not having any ceremonies at all.

Sources

- [1] DepEd considers online graduation rites due to COVID-19 lockdown. (2020, April 21). Retrieved from <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/4/21/DepEd-online-e-graduation-COVID-lockdown.html>
- [2] Gonzales, C. (2020, April 20). DepEd open to proposed online graduation rites | Inquirer News. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1261519/deped-on-e-graduation>
- [3] Jazul, N. (2020, May 27). DepEd launches first virtual 'graduation-in-a-box' program. Retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/05/27/deped-launches-first-virtual-graduation-in-a-box-program/>
- [4] Taguig City pilots virtual graduation rites through student-made robots. (2020, May 22). Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/5/22/Taguig-City-pilot-cyber-graduation-rites.html>

Barun ICT Global News

Publisher Beomsoo Kim

Editor-in-Chief Miyea Kim

Editor Yoonhee Jang

Translator Hyelyong Kim

Designer Siwan Kim

Yonsei University,
50 Yonsei-ro, Seodaemun-gu,
Seoul 03722, Korea
+82-2-2123-6694 | www.barunict.org

* Please note that any external contributions to the Global News
do not represent Barun ICT's official views.



<https://www.facebook.com/barunict/>



<https://www.instagram.com/barunict/>



Barun ICT Research Center

